

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A system for synchronizing and serving multimedia content in a distributed network environment the system comprising:
a synchronization server;
a content server; and
a plurality of clients, wherein the synchronization server provides a indication of an update to a multimedia resource to the clients, and the content server provides content information to the clients based upon the indication provided by the synchronization server.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the indication includes location information for an updated multimedia resource.
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the synchronization server is a multitasking system that executes a plurality of processes, each of the plurality of processes capable of processing distributed 45 events generated by each of the clients and synchronizing the distributed events.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the distributed events update a shared resource, and the distributed events are processed by the synchronization server in the order received by the synchronization server.
5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the content information is static.
6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the synchronization server includes a shared resource, and wherein the shared resource is updated by one of the plurality of clients in real time.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the content information changes in real time.

27 – 29. (Canceled)

28. (Original) A computer-implemented virtual course system adapted to a distributed network environment, the course system comprising:

a content server providing course-related information;
a plurality of clients adapted to exchange information with the content server; and
a synchronization server;

wherein the synchronization server provides an indication of an update to the course-related information to the clients, upon which at least one client sends a request for updated course-related information to the content server and the content server provides the updated course-related information to the at least one client in response to the request.

29. (Original) The computer-implemented virtual course system of claim 28, wherein the course-related information comprises at least information on a virtual whiteboard.

30. (Original) The computer-implemented virtual course system of claim 29, wherein the course-related information further comprises at least one of the following: a course catalog, and course instructional materials.

31 – 33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the multimedia content is a streaming content.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, wherein the streaming content is at least one of: audio content, video content, a combination of audio and video content, and application data.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein at least two of the plurality of the clients use applications with compatible data formats and wherein the multimedia content is content from the applications with the compatible data formats.